

"action and personal participation help  
guarantee our children's future"

**2016-2017**

## COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM BUDGET

Special Olympics Summer Games .....	\$5,000.00
Christmas Gift Program .....	\$6000.00
(Needed for our share of the cost of providing a gift for every child in a state hospital or state institution: in cooperation with the American Legion Auxiliary.)	
Educational Grants .....	\$2,100.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$13,100.00</b>

The only way we can meet this budget is through the Children & Youth Fund. Send your contribution to:

## COMMISSION PROGRAMS

1. To encourage 100 % reporting from each post.
2. The presentation of the following citations:
  - A. \*Top posts for outstanding C&Y program in Department. Five (5) Certificates of Meritorious Service to the Posts in the Department with the most C & Y program with (15-49) members, (50 - 99) members, (100 - 299) members, (300-499) members, and over (500) members.
  - B. \*Five (5) Special Citations for each Division to the posts with the most outstanding C&Y Program with (15-49) members, (50 - 99) members, (100 - 299) members, (300 - 499) members, and over (500) members. \* *A & B to be awarded at Dept. Convention.*
  - C. A citation to each post submitting a Children & Youth report to be given to Division Chairman for distribution. The special citations are to be awarded out at Division meetings.
3. Special Olympics and Hospitality Tent.
4. Prevention of Drug Abuse.
5. Continued emphasis on alerting the public and health service personnel to the symptoms and dangers of Reyes Syndrome.
6. Urge contributions to the Child Welfare Fund.
7. (4) Educational grants of \$500.00 to Dependent Youths from the Department of Children and Family Services.
8. Missing Children.
9. Teenage Suicide Prevention.

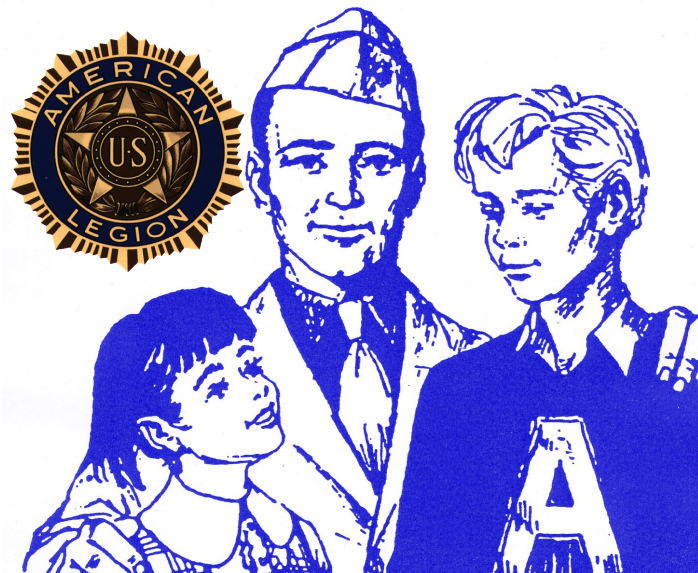


Scan here to visit  
our website

## America's Children and The American Legion

### A CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM

When you were initiated into The American Legion you heard the Chaplain say, "There shines the Emblem of The American Legion . ." and go on to say, "The two gold rings around the field of blue, bearing our name, typify two of our four main objectives - rehabilitation of our sick and disabled veterans, and care for the children and youth of America." Wordsworth says "The child is father of the man." Those things that influence a child today will determine how the man of tomorrow will feel and act. The American Legion is dedicated to helping make those "influences" positive and that every American child have adequate opportunity to realize his full potential. We firmly believe in the slogan: "A Square Deal for Every Child." And will do all we can to assure its fulfillment.



## COMMISSION on Children & Youth

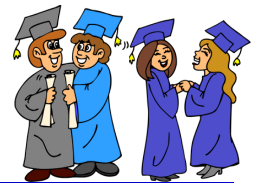
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
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# Our Gift To Children - A Promising Future

Department Commission On Children And Youth

Recommended Post Children & Youth Calendar



<p><b>JANUARY 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support your local Board of Health and schools in their efforts to control diseases and provide for the necessary treatment in your community.</li> <li>2. Each Post should provide community leadership for the organization of a "Youth Drug Educational Program."</li> <li>3. Contact your Special Olympics Area Chairman &amp; volunteer your service.</li> <li>4. Collect for CMN.</li> <li>5. Send in checks for Operation Military Kids and pillow case ink.</li> </ol>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start compiling Post Children and Youth activities for reporting.</li> <li>2. Develop a youth "Friend of the Court" program. Obtain American Legion National brochure, titled "Friend of the Court."</li> <li>3. Cooperate with local organizations in developing a program to combat child neglect and abuse.</li> <li>4. Survey your local hospitals and contact your local AMA and suggest an infant hearing assessment program.</li> <li>5. Invite District &amp; Division Chairmen to explain Consolidated Report.</li> </ol> <p><b>SEND A CHECK IN FOR CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH FUND</b></p>	<p><b>MARCH 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan an Easter Party for children in your area.</li> <li>2. Promote local "Child Day Care Center Program." Utilize your post home.</li> <li>3. Cooperate with your local Special Education District.</li> <li>4. Initiate a post community project for children recreation.</li> <li>5. Contact local schools for Boys &amp; Girls State participants.</li> <li>6. If you have not contributed to the Department C &amp; Y Fund, <u>please do so now.</u></li> </ol> <p><b>SEND A CHECK IN FOR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK</b></p>
<p><b>APRIL 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u><b>This is Children &amp; Youth Month!</b></u> Have a C &amp; Y Program.</li> <li>2. Evaluate your Post Children &amp; Youth Program. Are you meeting your community's needs?</li> <li>3. Get involved in your regional Special Olympics Field and Track Games.</li> <li>4. Join with other interest groups in your community in a program to redirect destructive youth.</li> <li>5. Develop a Youth Summer Employment Program in your community.</li> </ol> <p><b>MAIL EDUCATION FUND CHECK</b></p>	<p><b>MAY 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage children participation in placing flags on graves of veterans on Memorial Day.</li> <li>2. Make a memorial contribution to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in honor of your deceased members.</li> <li>3. Recommend an individual for the Department Outstanding C &amp; Y Worker Award.</li> <li>4. Have a Global Messenger visit to tell about what Special Olympics means to them. Call for scheduling. 309/888-2551.</li> <li>5. Compile C&amp;Y report and send to Department by June 1st.</li> </ol> <p><b>SEND A CHECK IN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS</b></p>	<p><b>JUNE 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Division, District and Posts submit their C&amp;Y reports with recommendations arriving <u><b>no later than June 1st</b></u> to Department Headquarters.</li> <li>2. State Special Olympics Summer Games at I.S.U., Normal, <b>June 16th - 17th.</b></li> <li>3. Send a boy to Boys State and a girl to Girls State.</li> <li>4. Have a program on Missing Children.</li> <li>5. Child &amp; Youth Commission Meeting <b>June 27th, 2017</b> at 10:00 a.m. to compile Consolidated reports.</li> </ol>
<p><b>JULY 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Send one or more underprivileged children to camp, including <b>military family child.</b></li> <li>2. Cooperate with your District and Regional State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Encourage frequent and careful inspection of foster homes for dependent children.</li> <li>3. Award (4) four scholarships to DCFS children.</li> </ol>	<p><b>AUGUST 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Each Post should budget an appropriate contribution for the Department Children and Youth Fund.</b></li> <li>2. Have a coordinated meeting with your Auxiliary, SAL and Riders to plan your C &amp; Y Program.</li> <li>3. Plan a post program on Reyes Syndrome (a film is available from National).</li> <li>4. Distribute to each post member a copy of "Parents Guide to Marijuana." (Can be obtained from Department Headquarters)</li> </ol>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage children to stay in school. Contact your local school, offer your assistance, and explain The American Legion's efforts in the educational and career fields.</li> <li>2. Assist in immunization program for children's diseases.</li> <li>3. Attend National Information Conferences.</li> <li>4. Work with your schools and other interested organization on the problem of missing children.</li> </ol>
<p><b>OCTOBER 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make Halloween a safe &amp; fun night, October 31, 2017. To help, hold a Halloween party for the children of your community.</li> <li>2. Have a Global Messenger visit to tell about what Special Olympics means to them. Call for scheduling - 309/888-2551.</li> <li>3. Send in a check to help support Christmas gifts to state hospitals.</li> </ol>	<p><b>NOVEMBER 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mail your Children and Youth contributions to Department Headquarters.</li> <li>2. Thanksgiving Week (third week): Develop Post, Unit, Community, "National Family Week" programs.</li> <li>3. Plan a recognition night for outstanding C &amp; Y workers in your community.</li> <li>4. Implement American Legion "Child Fire Safety" program.</li> <li>5. American Education Week - Remember your schools.</li> </ol>	<p><b>DECEMBER 2017</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the program of Christmas Gifts to children in State hospitals and institutions by your contribution to the Department C &amp; Y Fund.</li> <li>2. Hold Christmas parties for the children in your area.</li> <li>3. Plan a Teen Suicide Prevention Program.</li> <li>4. Plan a program for deployed soldiers families in your area.</li> </ol>

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR CHANGES \*\*\***

# The Post, District and Division Children & Youth Chairman's Responsibility

The Post Children and Youth Chairman has four major responsibilities — assistance, leadership, cooperation and reporting.

1. **Assistance**— The chairman acquaints himself with various sources of assistance for children within his community, and assists families in securing such aid. He/She uses post funds to help children in emergencies or may call upon the Department or National Organization.
2. **Leadership**— The chairman, with the approval and support of his commander, can devise projects for the benefit of children needed in his community. He/She interprets the Children and Youth program to the membership of his post and uses the brochure calendar as a guideline for his/her program.
3. **Cooperation**— The post chairman cooperates with other agencies and organizations in the interest of children to avoid duplication of effort and to provide more service to children by pooling resources. He/She serves on boards and committees of established community agencies providing services to children.
4. **Reporting**— Every post is expected to make a report on its Children and Youth work during the year. Complete the C & Y section of the Post Consolidated Report and remind your Adjutant to mail the completed form to Department Headquarters. The Department and National report is submitted to the United States Congress. In addition, the chairman should make periodic reports to the membership and the general public.

An active Children & Youth Chairman in each post and unit has long been an objective of the National Commission on Children & Youth. The Post Children & Youth Chairman is the keystone of the Children & Youth Program. This chairman is a member of one of the largest voluntary corps in this country who work with our young people. It is estimated he or she is one of 50,000 volunteer members of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations taking an active role in giving life and meaning to our Children & Youth Programs.

## 2016—2017

### Children & Youth Program Highlights

#### 1. SPECIAL OLYMPICS



"Let me win, but if I cannot, let me be brave in the attempt." This is the oath taken by every Special Olympic athlete. And for those of us who have been involved in this program, they are all winners, and so are we. To watch these athletes give their all, overcoming all types of handicaps, and to watch the pride in accomplishment and the joy on the faces of the winners makes your own heart swell with sympathetic pride and brings a tear of joy to the eyes. They still need help - as coaches, as huggers, to help with the games. Maybe your post can sponsor one of the events - the softball throw, softball game, bowling, horseback riding, gymnastics. The list is limited only by the facilities available and your enthusiasm. Each year the Department of Illinois furnishes a hospitality center for the athletes, their families and coaches. Each year this hospitality center gets more popular. We supply a large tent with tables, chairs, and snacks (*cookies, watermelon, popsicles, orange drink, relish & vegetable plates, etc.*).

Last year we had over 200 Legion, Auxiliary, Juniors, SAL and Rider volunteers man the tent - and the money to pay for it. We spent over \$10,000.00. Please help us make this goal by sending in your contribution to the Department, designated for the Special Olympics program.

#### 2. PREVENTION OF TEENAGE SUICIDE

In the last 27 years, suicide among teenagers and young adults has grown from an occasional tragic incident into an epidemic killer. According to the statistics, the suicide rate for persons less than 21 has tripled since 1955. The fact children are taking their own lives should be especially frightening for parents. Current data now shows suicide is the second leading cause of death among young persons. More frightening is the fact that the problem is growing, and few people know its extent.

#### 3. MISSING CHILDREN

Every year many children are missing from their homes. Some are kidnapped, some are runaways, some are abducted by noncustodial parents. And at the end of each year, almost 10 percent of missing children cases remain unsolved. Recently, Congress passed legislation that will allow the National Crime Information Center to accept into its computer more specific information on missing persons such as blood type, dental records and scars. In addition, many police departments with parents permission are fingerprinting children with the parents retaining the fingerprints. This year The American Legion has made "Missing Children" one of its three main areas of concern. Each post should get the brochure from National and have a program, to which the community is invited, outlining the seriousness of the problem and what can be done about it.

#### 4. DRUG ABUSE

Drug abuse is a problem in nearly every community. The degree of abuse and the substance used may vary, but you can be sure its there. Drugs are probably being abused in your school, in your neighborhood - possibly even in your own home. The best way to stop drug abuse is by prevention. Its a simple concept, but it does require constant work to be successful. Prevention requires a basic understanding and strong commitment. If children grow up with love and security, can express themselves freely, are realistic and yet optimistic about their abilities, and can make sound decisions, they will probably never become dependent on drugs. For those working with young people, it means giving sound advice and guidance in making the choices young people face growing up. For communities, it means seeing that young people receive the kinds of attention and experiences that can help them grow without a desire for drugs. Each post should enlist the aid of local agencies and present programs to parents on what they need to know about drug abuse. Work with your local schools and with other agencies that share your concerns.

#### 5. CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK



Since 1997, The American Legion Family has been working together to support their local Children's Miracle Network affiliated children's hospitals with funding to assist with the treatment of children in need of medical expenses.

One hundred percent of all funds raised with in any Department remains within that Department for treatment of our children. The participating hospitals in Illinois are: St. John's Hospital, Springfield; Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield; Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago; and Children's Hospital of Illinois, Peoria. Specialty items are provided to Posts, Units, & Squadrons free of charge to use as a fund-raiser. There are Miracle Balloons & Flag Icon Cards. Perhaps these can be sold at the Post Homes, County fairs, Community Centers or local businesses. Contact CMN hospital closest to you.

#### 6. OPERATION MILITARY KIDS PILLOW CASE PROJECT



For the past six years, in Illinois, C&Y has been involved in a program called Operation Military Kids Pillow Case Project it gives a little bit of home to our Military families facing deployment. We have a team that goes to deployments they make picture pillow cases for soldiers leaving. We give one to each family member in the picture so everyone gets someone to hug each night. It is truly a heartwarming "Legion Family" Project. Sadly Troops are still deploying so donations are needed for ink and transfer sheets (remember to earmark "OMK" in the memo section of your check). So far we have made over 11,000 pillow cases.





**2015—2016**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRMEN**



**AUXILIARY DIVISION CHAIRMEN  
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**LINDA FAGAN, CHAIRMAN**

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PO Box 136, Middletown, 62666 ..... 217/445-2691

SANDY SCHLEPER (5th Division) ..... EMAIL: sandilu52@hotmail.com  
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**DIVISION CHAIRMEN  
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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**GEORGE A. SWENSON SR., CHAIRMAN**

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Richard R. Schomer, Jr.

(3rd Div., 14th Dist.) ..... EMAIL: rrschomer@gmail.com  
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Richard C. Anderson

(4th Div., 17th Dist.) ..... EMAIL: dicknglenda@hotmail.com  
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**CAROLE SANDUSKY, VICE CHAIRMAN**

(5th Div., 24th Dist., White) ..... EMAIL: csandusky@egyptian.org  
101 5th St., Carmi 62821 ..... (H) 618/384-9241, © 618/527-0063

**AUXILIARY DISTRICT CHAIRMEN  
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

1. *None Reported* .....
2. *None Reported* .....
3. Denise Stroud ..... (773/263-6755)
4. Janice Patocka ..... (630/629-3824)
5. Dolly Sullivan ..... (708/728-0063)
7. *None Reported* .....
8. JoAnn Keenan ..... (708/720-1063)
9. Judy Kyska ..... (847/255-9582)
10. Jill Zwicke ..... (847/406-0206)
11. Mary Coffey ..... (630/879-5151)
12. *None Reported* .....
13. Judy Shipee ..... (815/233-9078)
14. Lois Brechbiel ..... (309/426-2307)
15. Pam Corbin ..... (309/371-9982)
16. Floann Clark ..... (309/712-8121)
17. Nancy Matheny ..... (217/339-5167)
18. Linda J. Young ..... (217/247-2801)
19. Marcia Roberts ..... (217/893-1883)
20. Catherine Reavly ..... (309/543-6126)
21. Barbara Turner ..... (217/341-9711)
22. Barb Borger ..... (618/792-2119)
23. Mary Jimmie Moade ..... (618/262-5627)
24. Nina Fleming ..... (618/384-8967)
25. *None Reported* .....

**DISTRICT CHAIRMEN  
ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

1. *None Reported* .....
2. Bernard White ..... 773-588-6358
3. Ernest Kelley ..... 773-322-4146
4. Frank Jerbich ..... 773-585-6085
5. Georgiann Callaway ..... 708-670-5539
7. Jan Lepinski ..... 847-470-0914
8. Ricky N. Serrano ..... 708-822-4935
9. Alfonso Pizarro ..... 708-655-5282
10. George Swenson, Sr. .... 847-356-8244
11. *None Reported* .....
12. Dave E. Johnson ..... 815-624-4292
13. Henry Huenfeld ..... 815-938-3243
14. Richard Schomer, Jr. .... 309-558-0712
15. Gene Lockard ..... 309-759-4867
16. *None Reported* .....
17. C.W. Schrader ..... 217-732-4759
18. Ronald D. Torbet ..... 217-474-3458
19. Gregg Roberts ..... 217-983-1883
20. Murl Walston ..... 217-285-2283
21. Bruce A. Hallam ..... 217-526-3996
22. *None Reported* .....
23. Jerome Goeckner ..... 217-821-0346
24. *None Reported* .....
25. Jeffrey Roscow ..... 618-317-6858

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DIVISION CHAIRMEN ON CHILDREN & YOUTH**

C&Y CHRM.: Harl "Butch" Ray ..... (217/741-6856)  
C&Y VICE CHRM.: Garrett Slevin, Sr. .... (309/697-9482)  
Child Welfare Promoter: Eugene Gort ..... (847/630-3703)

Children's Miracle Network Promoter; Harl "Butch" Ray ..... (217/741-6856)  
Toby Tire Promoter: Harl "Butch" Ray ..... (217/741-6856)